

Obey Statement on MARCH JOB REPORT

WASHINGTON – Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI), the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, made the following statement today on *the March* jobs report issued today by the Department of Labor showing job gains of 162,000 — the largest job gains in one month in the past three years. Today's job numbers includes the largest increase in private sector jobs since May 2007 – with private employers adding 123,000 jobs in March.

“The Labor Department released today that the economy added 162,000 jobs last month. That is welcome and long overdue news. It is evidence that after a long struggle, the Recovery Act has put us on the right path. It is especially encouraging that we added 123,000 private sector jobs, a stark contrast to the 744,000 private sector jobs lost this time a year ago, before the Recovery Act began to take effect. These numbers also show that we still have a serious problem with long term unemployment and we'll need bi-partisan collaboration to address that.

“We are doing several things that should help this problem over time, including:

- Providing additional tax credits for small businesses to hire new workers;
- Directing significant additional investment into community colleges and Pell Grants to help workers retool their skills and become more competitive in the changing job market;

- Passing the health reform bill, which will create a huge demand for doctors, nurses and other health professionals. It is estimated that over the next 10 years we will need an additional 4 million health professionals and we should start training them right now.

“Some partisan naysayers are saying that the Recovery Act hasn’t helped get us on the right path. These numbers show that’s not true. Mark Zandi, who was a key economic advisor to Senator McCain during the presidential election, said the Recovery Act is doing what it was designed to do - minimizing job loss and providing opportunities to stimulate job growth.

“We’ve still got a way to go, but we’re turning the corner that needed to be turned.”

#